

REMARKS

The Office Action of June 10, 1996, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over the patent to Köbler, et al.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Köbler, et al. in view of the patent to Fromson, et al., the patent Gerhardt and the patent to Fantoni, et al.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Köbler, et al. in view of the patent to Tittgemeyer.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Köbler, et al. in view of Tittgemeyer, the patent to Kühn, et al. and the patent to Morgan.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Köbler, et al. in view of Kühn, et al., Tittgemeyer and Gerhardt.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Köbler, et al. in view of Kühn, et al., the patent to Lewis and the patent to Berna, et al.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Köbler, et al. in view of the patent to Johnson.

Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Köbler, et al. in view of Johnson, and further in view of the patent to Dekumbis, et al.

Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Köbler, et al. in view of Fromson, et al., Gerhardt and Fantoni, et al., and further in view of Johnson.

Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Köbler, et al. in view of Kühn, et al., Morgan and Johnson.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Köbler, et al. in view of Johnson, Kühn, et al., Tittgemeyer and Gerhardt.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Köbler, et al. in view of Johnson, the patent to Fadner, et al., Morgan and the patent to Jenkins.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicants have amended the independent claims. It should be mentioned that the claims now on file specifically define a process and a metal carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms, which carrying sleeve is made of a rectangular thin walled flat metal sheet that is bent to form a hollow body and the edges which face one another are permanently connected together by a weld seam. The cylindrical form has an outer surface, including the weld seam, which is homogenous, continuous and uniform. This outer surface is formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. With a metal carrying sleeve constructed as discussed above it is possible to carry continuous printing with a sleeve having a weld seam, which was not possible in the prior art welded sleeves.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the methods and constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references, and particularly to the patent to Köbler, et al., it can be seen that this patent discloses a register device for a sleeve-shaped offset printing form. Although this reference discloses a weld seam, there is no disclosure of a homogenous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam, as in the presently claimed invention. As stated in lines 14-16 of column 2 of

Köbler, et al. the weld seam 2 is concave. Thus, the sleeve formed by Köbler, et al. is not suitable for continuous printing and thus does not disclose the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The referenced cited against dependent claims 2-7 have also been considered.

Fromson, et al. disclose a process for graining an aluminum base lithographic plate. This reference provides no teachings regarding a welded carrying sleeve as dealt with in independent claim 1.

The patent to Gerhardt discloses a process for producing an embossing die in roll form. This reference provides absolutely no teaching regarding the working of a weld seam in a welded metal carrying sleeve to produce a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface, as in the presently claimed invention.

Fantoni, et al. disclose a method for mechanically joining marginal portions of a blank of a printing plate. This reference teaches the type of prior art on which the present invention is intended to improve.

The Examiner combined these references with Köbler, et al. in determining that claim 3 would be unpatentable over such a combination. It is respectfully submitted that none of these references taken either alone or in combination provide teaching of a metal carrying plate having a weld seam that is worked to create a homogenous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface of the carrying sleeve so that continuous printing can be carried out.

The patent to Tittgemeyer discloses a method and apparatus for printing with a lithograph fixed sleeve. Although Tittgemeyer discloses a water conducting coat on the outer surface of a printing roller, when this reference is combined with Köbler, et al. there is no teaching from the combination of a metal carrying sleeve having a weld seam that is worked to form a homogenous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface of the carrying sleeve so that continuous printing can be carried out, as in the presently claimed invention.

Kühn, et al. and Morgan do teach the placement of a conventional engraved copper coat on a printing roller. Moreover, when these references are combined with Tittgemeyer and Köbler, et al. there is still no teaching of a metal carrying sleeve having a weld seam that is worked so as to create a homogenous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface of the carrying sleeves so that continuous printing can be carried out, as in the presently claimed invention.

The teachings of Lewis and Berna, et al. are also considered to be technological background and do not teach the features of the presently claimed invention as discussed above.

Johnson discloses a cylindrical member having welding material 13 which "serves to draw the sheet metal into firm engagement with the outer surface of the cylinder 10, at the same time the material which fills the groove 11 serves to anchor the sheet metal securely to the cylinder." Thus, Johnson does not disclose a metal carrying sleeve having its edges welded together to form a cylinder and an outer surface, together with the weld seam, which is worked to be homogenous, continuous and uniform so that continuous printing is possible. The teachings of Johnson are similar to those of Köbler, et al. and thus a combination of these two references does not teach the presently claimed invention.

Dekumbis, et al. teach various types of welding but provide no teaching regarding the production of a carrying sleeve via the steps recited by the presently claimed invention. Thus, a combination of Dekumbis, et al., Johnson and Köbler, et al. does not teach the presently claimed invention.

Thus, applicants respectfully submit that the various combinations of references relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103 do not teach the process and carrying sleeve as recited in the claims, specifically regarding the working of the weld seam to create a homogenous, continuous and uniform outer surface of the sleeve so as to permit continuous printing.

In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the various rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103 are overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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